

## **CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT (CJA) TASK FORCE**

Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)

Law Enforcement & Victims Services Division

**Friday November 21, 2008, 10:00 AM**

Radisson Hotel, Sacramento

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Harry Elias, Cathy Stephenson, Nora Baladerian, David Casey, Donald Cohon, Michael Grogan, Carol O'Callaghan, Jay Smith, Deanne Tilton, Tina Williams, and Dale Wilson.

**Members Absent:** Robin Allen, Teresa Contreras, Jan Dunn, Stephanie George and Wendy Wright.

**OES Staff Present:** Ellie Jones, Linda MacRae, Janine Williams, Leigh Bills and Norine Hegy.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Harry Elias, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Individuals present introduced themselves.

#### **II. MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2007 MEETING**

The Task Force members reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and all members voted in favor.

#### **III. OES ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ellie Jones, Victim Services Branch Chief, announced the creation of the new California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) merging OES and the Office of Homeland Security. Cal EMA will be lead by an appointed Secretary and this person will serve on the Governor's cabinet. Ellie assured the Task Force OES is working with our federal contacts to ensure grant recipients are not affected by the merge.

Ellie Jones announced Ann Mizoguchi has left OES and that she will be overseeing the Victim Justice and Children's Sections until a new Branch Chief is hired.

Ellie Jones announced OES is expecting Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding reductions for 2009. This will impact programs but OES will do what we can to minimize the impact.

Leigh Bills, Criminal Justice Specialist, announced the federal application and Three-Year Report were submitted on time and no additional information was requested from our federal CJA contact.

Future CJA Task Force meetings were set for Friday, February 20, 2009 and Friday, June 12, 2009 beginning at 10:00 and will be held in Sacramento.

#### **IV. FORM 700/CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

The Task Force continued (from the previous CJA Task Force meeting) the discussion on the proposed revisions to Section VII. E. of the California CJA Task Force Member Expectations which requires a Task Force member's membership be suspended during any period when the member, or an immediate family member, benefits financially from CJA grant funding.

Linda MacRae, OES Legal Staff, reminded the Task Force of the legal interpretation that the Task Force makes recommendations, which are considered State decisions, and therefore members are required to submit the Form 700 disclosing any conflict of interest. Linda MacRae explained it is important to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest.

The Task Force discussed various situations which may qualify as a real or perceived conflict of interest and defined immediate family as a members spouse, domestic partner, child, step-child, parent, or sibling.

Catherine Stephenson made a motion to approve the changes to Section VII. E. of the California CJA Task Force Member Expectations, David Casey seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

In light of the revisions made to the California CJA Task Force Member Expectations, Nora Baladerian and Deanne Tilton requested their membership be suspended during the period of conflict.

#### **V. CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CEDV) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL UPDATE**

Leigh Bills informed the Task Force OES received six proposals for the CEDV Specialized Response Program, the proposals were rated and the two highest rating proposals, Fresno Police Department and National City Police Department, were selected for funding.

#### **VI. NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD ADVOCATE CJA MEMBER SOLICITATION**

The Task Force reviewed the resumes and letters of interest from the thirteen candidates interested in filling the Native American Child Advocate representation positions on the Task Force. The Task Force considered several members and

decide on Elizabeth DeRouen. Catherine Stephenson made a motion to recommend Ms. DeRouen, Jay Smith seconded the motion. Ten Task Force members voted in favor and one, David Casey, abstained.

## **VII. BRIEFING – CJA ANNUAL FEDERAL MEETING**

Harry Elias gave a brief overview of the topics presented and discussed at the annual CJA federal meeting in August 2008. Harry noted California is ahead of most states in terms of the work being done with CJA funds and by the Task Force. Leigh Bills echoed these statements.

## **VIII. CJA PROGRAM REVIEW SUB-RECIPIENT PRESENTATIONS**

Project Directors, project staff, and OES staff presented the status of the seven following CJA funded programs:

- Child Abuse Sexual Examination Mentoring;
- Child Abuse & Neglect Resource Database;
- Curriculum Development and Training: Dependency Counsel Child Maltreatment;
- Investigation Protocol and Training: Fatal and Severe Non-Fatal;
- Tribal CASA Collaborations;
- DEC Database Development, Coordination, Technical Assistance; and
- Extended Forensic Evaluation.

## **IX. CJA THREE-YEAR REPORT ANNUAL REVIEW**

The review of progress for the Three-Year Report was tabled until the February 20, 2008 CJA Task Force Meeting because of time.

## **X. MISCELLANEOUS**

The Task Force discussed the importance of hearing presentations on the progress of CJA funded programs and recommended program representatives be asked to present at the fall CJA meeting following their second year of funding.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.